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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY Austria/USSR

DATE DISTR. 28 January 1949

SUBJECT Possible Soviet Oil Negotiations with Austria
25X1A6a Prior to Peace Treaty Negotiations

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

1. Director Riabinin of the Sowjetische Mineralölverwaltung is at present in Moscow to obtain specific instructions and directives for negotiating an oil settlement directly with the Austrian Government prior to the signing of a peace treaty with Austria.
2. Although they have not yet struck oil, the Soviets believe that the Matzen area has greater potential reserves than any other area in Austria. The Matzen area drillings have been intensified in an attempt to strike oil before the resumption of treaty negotiations. If the drillings should prove successful, the Soviets will be willing to release several less productive fields to their former owners or to the Austrian Government. In return, they would retain exclusive rights to the exploitation in Matzen.
3. The agreement would include the return of the Hauskirchen oil enterprise, part of the Mühlberg exploitation to Steinberg Naphta, and the northern part of the Niederdonau exploitation to RAG and Van Sickle; the return of a large part of DEA I and II to Van Sickle and other pre-1938 owners; the return of Van Sickle, RAG, and DEA installations to the Austrian economy.
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25X1A6a **Comment:** [redacted] has reported previously that the same firms, plus E.P.G., would be sold to the Austrian economy for dollars. It is not known if the Soviets plan to return these fields for concessions in the Matzen area, or if they will demand dollar payments in addition to Matzen concessions. Soviet interest in the Matzen area has been the subject of several previous reports, but the results of the extensive drilling operations have so far been negative, with the exception of some natural gas wells.)

BY CABLE

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